

Compass Activity 2: “Hunt the Coin”

Aim:

To practice using an orienteering compass correctly and to follow a simple course given the bearings and distances.

What you need:

Large grassy area

A coin, or similar small flat object not easily seen from a distance

Hand-held compass (orienteering compass)

Instructions:

Place the coin on the ground at your feet.

Set the compass at 60° and turn your body to face this bearing. Walk 10 paces forward along this bearing and stop. It is important to keep your paces regular in size. To pace, begin with your right foot and count a pace each time you step on your left foot.

Now add 120° to your present bearing so that the compass reads 180° on the dial. Turn your body to face this bearing and walk another 10 paces in the new direction. Stop.

Again add 120° to your last bearing so that the compass dial now reads 300° . Walk 10 paces at this new bearing.

You have now walked in a triangle and if you have been really accurate the coin will be at your feet when you completed the last leg.....Is it?

If you didn't do too well, try again and remember your paces should be regular and in a straight line along the bearings. It often helps to choose a landmark in front of you to walk toward. Check to see that you are reading the bearings on the compass dial correctly and that you are holding the compass flat.

